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4:25 p.m.

RLK

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GORDON GRAY

Mr. Gray telephoned to say that in talking with the President this morning about schedule of work ahead, Gray suggested to the President, in view of the information Mr. Merchant gave Gray last night that the working group in Paris would finish their work this weekend, the President might want to hear State's estimate with respect to what our allies position might be pointing to. Mr. Herter said he was surprised about the working group finishing this weekend; said his last information was that it would be four or five weeks. Mr. Gray said Mr. Merchant first thought towards the end of next week, but with the three-power meeting possibly on the 31st and the four-power about the same time, what gives Gray concern is at what point does a talking paper begin to have to be more than just talking. Mr. Herter said he doubted if it will be really firm until the 1st of May; said it partly depends on how far we get in the meeting over the weekend and how far we get in obtaining an accurate picture of what the other governments are thinking. Mr. Herter said one of the difficulties is the German position and said Bruce is going to talk to Adenauer. Mr. Herter said we had a message today which varies quite a little from Adenauer's earlier position.



Mr. Gray said in his talk with the President, the President said he would like to see a visual presentation of the various actions to be taken in each of the three phases in respect of which there would be no question about the U.S. position and identifying those which ~~XXXXXXXX~~ still depended on a lot of factors, such as reduction of forces, free zone, etc. The President would like to see the magnitude of the task in arriving at something definite.

Mr. Gray said he talked to Mr. McElroy who suggested Gray work on this with Jack Irwin, and Gray asked who Mr. Herter would like to designate. Mr. Herter said since Mr. Reinhardt is the coordinator for both the Macmillan talks and NATO, he felt it should be Mr. Reinhardt. Gray said with Mr. Herter's approval he would then try to get Messrs. Reinhardt and Irwin together, but Mr. Herter asked that it not be done until Macmillan departs since Mr. Reinhardt and the others involved are working around the clock right now on the Macmillan talks. Gray said he would wait until sometime next week.